

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following:

A scanning laser microscope which can be used to scan biochips includes a transmitter, comprising lasers (12A-C), that emits an optical signal (14), a beam ~~slitting~~ splitting mirror (20) having an opening (22), a reflector (36) which directs the optical signal (14) onto a specimen (90), a detector assembly, including detectors (42A-C), which detects a reflected optical signal (44) from the specimen (90), a first drive mechanism for varying the position of the optical signal (14) on the specimen (90) and a second drive mechanism for varying the position of the specimen (90) relative to the optical signal (14).